

Some of the fine the control of the

LIFE OF A MINER IN THE PENNSYLVANIA ANTHRACITE COAL REGION.

tone of us had any opportunities to acquire an education. We were sent to school (such a school as there was in rs of age, and then we were put into screen room of a breaker to pick e. From there we went inside the nines as driver boys. As we grew stronger we were taken on as laborers, where we served until able to call ourselves miners. We were given work in the breasts and gangways. There were five of us been tery-fitty tons of top rock dropped on him. He was killed three weeks after be got his job as a miner—a month before he was to be married.

miner I have earned the average rate of wages any of us coal heavers get. Today I am little better off than when, started to do for myself. I have \$100 in hand: I am not in debt; I hope to able to weather the strike without

only one of the hundreds you see am only one of the hundreus you to the street every day. The muscles on my arms are no harder, the callous on my palms no deeper than my neighbor.

tr-three of these years have been spent working in and around the mines. My father was a miner. He died ten years ago from "miners' asthma."

Three of my brothers are miners:

Three of my brothers are miners: walk sometimes miles to the place—to the manway or traveling way, or to mouth of the shaft on top of the slope. And then we enter the darkened cham-bers of the mines. On our right and on our left we see the logs that keep up the top and support the sides which may crush us into shapeless masses, as they have done to many of our com-rades.

much, of course, and not as much as many of my neighbors, men of larger families, and some who made less money, or in whose case there had been sickness or accident or death. These are all things which a miner must provide for.

I have had fairly good work since I

was married. I made the average of what we contract miners are paid; but, as I said before, I am not much better off than when I started.

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We get old quickly. Powder, smoke, afterdamp, bad air—all combine to bring furrows to our faces and asthmato our lungs.

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I was married in 1890, when I was 33 years we were only working about half time. Her mother nursed her, and that time het us kept a girl in the kitchen at \$1.50 a week, which cost me \$15 for ten weeks, besides the additional living expenses.

In 1897, just a year afterward. I had a severer trial. And mind, in those years old—quite a bit above the age in the time. Her mother nursed her, and the that time her us for the we

and had been boarding. He had no home of his own. I didn't want him taken to the hospital, so I directed the home of his own. I din't want him taken to the hospital, so I directed the home of his hospitals and poorhole. He had no money when he was burt except the amount represented by his elected the borne by me except the amount represented by his formation of the home down to grow here he was burt except the amount represented by his formation of the home down to grow he he was burt except the amount represented by his formation of the home of the ho